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Appl. No. 10/710901

Applicant : Rong Huang
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Title : Thermally Tunable Laser with Single Solid Etalon
Wavelength Locker

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT

Sir:

I found a few writing irregularities in the claims and I want to make some reorganizations of the claims, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

[claim 1] A wavelength locked thermally tunable laser comprising:

A semiconductor laser, whose output wavelength adjusted thermally and continuously;

A wavelength locker, comprising:

- (a) a solid etalon, whose free space range or its physical thickness relates to the temperature characteristics of said semiconductor laser;
- (b) a first photo detector for detecting a collimated light extracted from said semiconductor laser and transmitting through said solid etalon;
- (c) a second photo detector for detecting the power output of said semiconductor laser;

Said semiconductor laser and wavelength locker packaged on one single platform;

The temperature of said platform, semiconductor laser and solid etalon adjusted by a thermal electrical cooler;

A temperature detecting element disposed near said solid etalon for detecting the ambient temperature of said etalon;

A means of locking the wavelength of said semiconductor laser to a specific wavelength by an outside electronic controller.

[claim 2] A wavelength locked thermally tunable laser of claim 1 wherein said solid etalon having a free spectrum range FSR or physical thickness $t(T)$ at a temperature T is defined by a first partial reflector and a second partial reflector, said reflectors formed on the two parallel surfaces of a piece of transparent material.

[claim 3] The solid etalon of claim 2 wherein the FSR of said solid etalon

$$FSR = \Delta\nu - \frac{\Delta\nu}{(d\nu/dT)_{laser}} \times (d\nu/dT)_{etalon},$$

where $\Delta\nu$ is the channel spacing, such as 100GHz, 50GHz etc.; $(d\nu/dT)_{laser}$ the temperature dependence of the emission frequency of said semiconductor laser; and $(d\nu/dT)_{etalon}$ the temperature dependence of said solid etalon's resonance peak frequency.

[claim 4] The solid etalon of claim 2 wherein the physical thickness $t(T)$ of said solid etalon

$$t(T_1) = \frac{L\lambda_1\lambda_2 + 2n(\lambda_2, T_2)\alpha\Delta T\lambda_1}{2n(\lambda_1, T_1)\lambda_2 - 2n(\lambda_2, T_2)\lambda_1},$$

where λ_1 is the output wavelength at temperature T_1 of said semiconductor laser; $\Delta\lambda$ is the channel spacing corresponding to 100Ghz, 50GHz, etc.; $\lambda_2=\lambda_1+L\Delta\lambda$ is the output wavelength at T_2 of said semiconductor laser; α is the thermal expansion coefficient of the material of said solid etalon; L is an integer($=1, 2, \dots$); $\Delta T=T_2-T_1$ is the temperature change required to change the output wavelength from λ_1 to λ_2 of said semiconductor laser; $n(\lambda_1, T_1)$ and $n(\lambda_2, T_2)$ are the refractive index of the material of said solid etalon at λ_1, T_1 and λ_2, T_2 , respectively.

[claim 5] The wavelength locked thermally tunable laser of claim 1, further comprising a means to adjust a locking point value set at temperature T and wavelength λ according to a measured temperature T' by an amount of $[I(\lambda, T')-I(\lambda, T)]$, where $I(\lambda, T)$ is the normalized (against the power fluctuation) transmission intensity of said solid etalon at the locking wavelength λ and the temperature T and $I(\lambda, T')$ is the normalized transmission intensity of said solid etalon at the locking wavelength λ and temperature T' .